

## WHAT'S A FAIR SHARE?

... By Glenn D. Everett  
(Mr. Everett is a Washington Correspondent who writes for many Religious News Services.)

Probably at no point where the Christian moral order attempts to influence the secular economic order of society is there a greater occasion for difference of opinion than over the question of what constitutes a fair distribution of national income.

While there are some idealists who hold to the thesis that "each should contribute according to his talents and share according to his needs," we face the practical proposition that we live in an economic society that operates by the motive of personal reward. We also face the fact that talents, and particularly the ambition to use them, are very unequally divided and that unless a society is very homogeneous and governed by strong moral precepts, the inevitable drones and sinners will soon bring to ruin any Utopian economic experiment.

Such was the sad experience of most of the Christian communal societies attempted in the 19th century, and it mainly has been the experience of the Socialist states of the 20th century that they have soon been obliged to resort to the "carrot and the stick"—unfortunately, the stick more often than the carrot, due to "carrot" shortage.

Equality in the distribution of income is therefore a necessary product of the operation of the economic order. The moralist will inquire, however, how much inequality?"

Churchmen who are interested in the question will find much food for thought in a study of American income just completed by Dr. Herman Miller, under the auspices of the Bureau of the Census and the Social Science Research Council. Having access to all of the mountains of economic data collected by the U. S. Government, Dr. Miller was able, after years of work, to come up with rather accurate picture of the way the distribution of our national income changed between 1939 and 1951.

Providing employed workers of the United States into groups of one-fifth, according to their income status, he came up with these percentages:

	1951	1939
Best fifth	3	3
Second fifth	11	8
Third fifth	18	15
Fourth fifth	26	25
Worst fifth	42	49

National monetary income doubled in this period, but Dr. Miller was concerned with what size slice of the pie was going to each group. It will immediately be seen that the group going to the top group dropped from one-seventh during this period,

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### DISCIPLES TO ATTEND WASHINGTON SEMINAR FEBRUARY 7-10

Disciples of Christ have been allocated 29 delegates to the annual Churchmen's Washington Seminar sponsored by the National Council of the Churches of Christ. Over 300 Protestant clergymen and laymen will attend the four day "Your Government and You" program, February 7-10, 1956. Again this year delegates will meet and discuss vital issues with Congressional leaders and top civilian and military officials in the administration. Quotas must be subscribed to by each of the 14 participating denominations by the first of January, 1956.

Disciples wishing to attend or desiring more information should write The Department of Social Welfare, United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. Allocation of the 29—Disciple quota will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## A Church With Vision!

In less than three weeks Central Christian Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, has completed seven assurances on refugees for resettlement in their city.

Information, interest, commitment, vision—all led to the answer of the dreams and hopes of eleven refugees. There was *Sonja Schmidt* and *Melitta*, her eight-year-old daughter. *Melitta* will now have the opportunity her mother never had in a free country where she can attend school and play freely with new friends. *Mr. and Mrs. Svilpe*, Latvians, and *Claude*, who is a year old, are also being given a job and a home in Kalamazoo and "reason to hold up their heads again." The *Hadjiabramidou* sisters from Greece will have the privilege of working in their chosen professions and being together. *Mr. and Mrs. Sokratis Vlasakis* from Salonika, Greece, are going to have the chance to work in spite of any idea of "their not being a good risk" because of their ages (54 and 56). *Karl and Hans Friese* of Germany will again be able "to look the world in the face" since they will have good paying jobs in road construction.

### What Did It Take?

It took a congregation of people in-

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## U. N. AGENDA:

### COLONIALISM and DISARMAMENT

Ten years after the founding of the United Nations, colonialism and disarmament were still among the troublesome issues that dominated the agenda of the world organization. But as the General Assembly met in New York this year there were also some significant contrasts in the demeanor of the delegates as they considered these two "problem children" of 20th century statesmen. The happier mood with which the statesmen tackled the problem of disarmament was a long desired hopeful note. But the General Assembly's colonial policy debate provided the most marked contrast with ten years earlier.

### New Balance of Power

The more than a dozen former colonies of western powers, most of whom achieved independence since World War II, have made the difference. The 13-nation Afro-Asian block corraled enough votes from among other powers to win a 28-27 vote that placed French administration of Algeria on the General Assembly's agenda for debate.

The vote to debate the Algerian issue was the first show of strength in the U. N. by the former colonial powers that met last Spring at Bandung. They now appeared determined to win that independence for others that they themselves now enjoy. Immediate repercussions were the tentative withdrawal of France from the U. N. and the embarrassment of the U. S. who voted on the losing side against the Afro-Asian nations. The embarrassment of the United States was all the more acute because the Soviet Union and its allies cast the decisive votes against colonialism.

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## Colonialism and Disarmament . . .

French administration of Algeria has been a target of the Afro-Asia block for the past two sessions of the General Assembly. The significance of the victory this year was heightened by the fact that for the first time in the U.N.'s history the General Assembly over-rode a recommendation of the Steering Committee, which declined to place the Algerian issue on the agenda.

At stake in the Algerian dispute was French control of a population of 9,000,000, of which about 90 per cent was native and 10 per cent European. Political control rests with the European ten per cent, although gradual native participation in government has been tolerated. But "gradualism" is dying a quick death in colonial areas. With the example before them of the new post-war governments of the Philippines, India, Burma, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia, the natives of Algeria were demanding more speedy action.

Meanwhile, France put up a strong legal and technical fight to defend her view that Algeria was a "domestic problem." Technically a part of metropolitan France, Algeria has a small representation in the parliament at Paris. Most of the western powers, including the U. S. and Britain, supported the French position.

French troubles were not confined to Algeria. In Morocco, a shift in Sultans failed to quell the tide of nationalism. Conflicting pressures at home seemed likely to prevent any French government from taking bold action to solve its colonial problems. At the same time the communists powers were complicating the problem in the Arab world with an encouraging word and occasional contribution of military supplies.

But the French were only the latest of the colonial powers to feel the push of the awakened nations of the east and near east. Britain, Holland, and other colonial powers have likewise been judged and found wanting before this international organization. In the Algerian vote, however, the Afro-Asian nations indicated a new power that they will undoubtedly use with increasing frequency in the United Nations to make 1955-65 a decade to be remembered for the end of colonialism. The General Assembly of the United Nations promised to be a frequent forum for these debates.

### Disarmament

Positive steps toward disarmament proved to be as elusive for statesmen of this decade as for those in ages past. For most of the 10 years since San Francisco the argument has continued over which comes first, relaxation of east-west tensions, or reduction of arms. The arms build-up continued in all parts of the world until recently when the mood created at the Geneva "summit" conference seemed to revive disarmament proposals. This spirit seemed to set off a fresh search for a disarmament plan that would satisfy both Russia and the United States. The points at issue were: (1) a nearly air-

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tight inspection system so that all nations would be protected against an arms build-up by others; (2) a time schedule for putting an arms inspection plan into effect, so that the atomic powers can be sure that their counterparts in enemy lands have actually destroyed the bombs and means for their construction.

As the disarmament discussions continued it became increasingly clear that there is no such thing as a completely fool-proof system of arms inspection. This point of view was expressed by President Eisenhower, before his illness, when he told reporters that we can narrow the distance but cannot completely close the gap that will give us an infallible inspection system. This gap, the President said, must be closed by "faith."

ROBERT A. FANGMEIER

## NEBRASKA INSTITUTE

Lt. Uriela Blackshear, stationed at the air base near Lincoln, Nebraska, reported in calm, matter-of-fact tones his inability to find suitable housing in the city of Lincoln. He reported that there were 44 other Negro officers and about 400 Negro enlisted men, at the base who also would be denied the right to choose their homes off the base.

Mr. Lee A. Ow, member of Tabernacle Church, Lincoln, and a Realator, reported that the Negro population of Lincoln was about 3,000 in a total population of 115,000. He confirmed Lt. Blackshear's report of limited housing available to Negroes. He commented on the attempts of some real estate dealers to develop a housing project for Negroes.

Mr. John Harden, Minister of the Methodist Negro congregation summed up the housing situation for Negroes by saying that Negroes do not want to live in houses or sections that are set off especially for them. Open housing—housing that is open to ownership without regard to race or color is the continuing objective of all groups.

These three reports were the preliminary statements of a symposium on "How Does Prejudice Affect the Housing Situation of Our Community."

The symposium, with Carroll Lemon, Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Council of Churches, as moderator, was one of the highlights of the Social Action Institute held in Lincoln in October.

Dr. David Fulcomer, Professor of Sociology at Iowa State College, Ames,

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Iowa, serving as resource leader, addressed the group on "The Nature of Prejudice and Ways of Overcoming It." Prejudice, said Dr. Fulcomer is a learned complex of attitudes which every human being has about one or more objects. It is a defensive measure of the insecurity of the person. It can be checked or kept within bonds by the controls of legislation, mores, and intelligence, but can be overcome only by experiences that confirm and assure the person of his worth. Prejudice is overcome, said Fulcomer only in those experiences where the person is loved. He suggested two major areas for action by the churches: examining every aspect of the church's program in terms of the quality of its fellowship—does this provide experiences in which each person senses that he is loved? political and social action to prevent the expression of prejudice against particular groups—such expressions as discrimination in housing, employment, use of public facilities.

The Lincoln Institute drew representatives from the following churches: Ashland, Beatrice, Fairbury, Fremont, Grand Island; Bethany, Lincoln; East Lincoln; First, Lincoln; Havlock, Tabernacle, Lincoln; Murray, Unadilla, and Virginia.

On the following day a similar Institute at Hastings had persons registered from: Aurora, Grand Island, McCook, and Hastings. The symposium at Hastings included Rev. Doyle Hayes of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and Mrs. Ernest Zalman of the Council of Church Women. In considering the effects of prejudice on the local community the following facts were brought out: There are 125 Negroes in the population of 20,000; Restaurants and hotels refuse to serve Negroes; housing and job opportunities are severely limited.

Other features of the two Institutes were workshop sessions on Refugee Resettlement, The United Nations, and Materials and Other Resources for the Committee on Social Education and Action.

The Institutes were sponsored by the Nebraska Commission on Social Action, Mrs. Hugo Srb, Chairman, and the Department of Social Welfare.

LEWIS H. DEER



## Disarmament Booklets . . .

### For Church Programs

Two recently published pamphlets will provide excellent background material for a discussion of world disarmament are: (1) *Disarmament—From Swords into Plowshares?* by William R. Frye, Foreign Policy Association, 35 cents; (2) *Issues Before The Tenth General Assembly*, "International Conciliation," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 25 cents.

Dr. Frye, one of America's distinguished journalists, is the United Nations Correspondent for the "Christian Science Monitor." He writes interestingly and factually about the historical developments and presents plans and possibilities for disarmament. There is a discussion study guide with suggested questions in connection with this pamphlet. "International Conciliation" provided an excellent comparative study of the various disarmament proposals now before the U. N. The charts which lists the plans of the Soviet bloc and Western powers makes it possible to understand the plays and players on the world stage. Both booklets may be obtained at the above prices by writing the respective publishers or the Department of Social Welfare, United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Wayne Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

ROBERT A. FANGMEIER

### A Church Without Vision!

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rested in other people and anxious to extend their Christian influence across the sea. It took a Church Board with the ability to give thought to something other than local problems. It took a minister like Kenneth Seeley whose vision encompassed other peoples and lands. It took a Social Action Committee Chairman like Patrick Jones to inspire his wide-awake committee to the possibilities of a refugee project. It took a man like William Howe to chair the Refugee Resettlement Committee and give of his time to achieve results.

Because a Christian Church had vision—and the willingness to work toward realizing their vision—eleven people will have hope again and renewed faith in God and in their fellowmen.

ELLA L. WILLIAMS

## PREJUDICE AND YOUR CHILD

By Kenneth B. Clark,  
Beacon Press, 1955, \$2.50

"The concrete fact of segregation within the church is more likely to influence racial attitudes of children than abstract pronouncements and resolutions, no matter how strongly worded. Isolated examples of interracial parishes, or an occasional visit to a Negro church, or the extension of an invitation to a 'nice' Negro family—these cannot be considered meaningful experiences for children. While these activities are not in themselves detrimental, the church can be effective in the improvement of race relations only when it demonstrates in a concrete and dramatic way that it is willing to abolish racial segregation in a major institution in America.

"While it must be recognized that an individual church is generally considered to be an intimate family social institution, it must also be recognized that the church has the responsibility of developing moral sensitivity in the children and the families associated with it."

### Churches Need a Program

These quotations summarize Chapter 7 of Kenneth B. Clark's recent book. Dr. Clark is professor of psychology at the City College of New York. Chapter seven asks, "What Can the Churches Do (to eliminate prejudice in children)?" Dr. Clark served on the staff responsible for the assembling of data for the 1950 White House Conference on Children and Youth. One project prepared for that conference was a study of what programs churches had developed that were designed to help children have positive attitudes toward persons of other races and colors.

"A majority of the churches organizations had no specific programs in the area of improving race relations; there was evidence that churches and church related institutions practiced racial discrimination, not one group described a concrete program designed to help children develop positive attitudes and behavior toward individuals of other racial groups."

The first half of this book is the report of psychological research in the origin and pattern of racial prejudice in children. The second half is a "Program of Action" suggestions of what schools, social agencies, churches, parents can do about eliminating prejudice from the mind of the child.

LEWIS H. DEER

## What's a Fair Share?

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while all but the lowest one-fifth were increasing their share. The lowest 20 per cent of our population still get only 3 per cent of total income, but the second fifth and third fifth (made up largely of factory and service workers and small farmers) notably increased their shares, despite the fact that, collectively, 60 per cent of the population still get only one-third of the income, and 40 per cent get two-thirds.

Most moralists would agree that distribution of the national income is fairer in 1951 than it was in 1939. The social revolution which these statistics reflect was not accomplished without a good deal of grumbling from those in the highest class, who found themselves losing ground. While the standard of living of the upper fifth is still eminently satisfactory, being more than twice the per capita average and nearly three times the median, there has been great lamentation over the "socialistic legislation," high income tax levels, and the high union wages that had been responsible for a good bit of the redistribution. The change in income distribution was accomplished peacefully, but not painlessly.

One shocking aspect of Dr. Miller's study is his finding that, in 1951, one-fourth of America's population still did not obtain sufficient income for even "a basic standard of decency." The lowest 25 per cent got less than 5 per cent of U. S. income. In a time of prosperity, it would seem that the American economy ought to be doing better than this. It is a serious economic and social problem, because it means that American industry finds virtually no market at all for the goods it produces among that quarter of our population. Their purchases must be limited to basic necessities of the lowest quality and price.

Nor is the market much better among the next 25 per cent, who receive only about 16 per cent of national income. Actually, most of the new automobiles, television sets, refrigerators, and the like, are being produced for one-half of the population. Our economic system thereby not only breeds social dissatisfaction, but frustrates its potential market by denying purchasing power to the lower economic groups.

The national income melon has been growing larger each year. It would seem, however, that for the health of the vine, the lowest one-fifth ought to have their 3 per cent share doubled to at least 6 per cent. The second and third fifth's doubtless include many citizens who justifiably could ask a somewhat larger share, too. Looking at the economic structure of American society as reflected by Dr. Miller's statistics, it seems obvious where the ad-

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# .. WHEN YOUR COMMITTEE MEETS ..

The November meeting of the Committee on Christian Action and Community Service in your church may find suggestions and help from the following list of events and projects:

## DATES TO CIRCLE

### • November 20

#### Thanksgiving Sunday

This Sunday provides opportunity to tell and dramatize the story of Social Education to the entire church school and church constituency.

### • November 28—December 1

United Nations Seminar II for ministers, church leaders, and students sponsored by the department of social welfare. This seminar group will spend two days at U. N. headquarters in New York, and one day with U. S. leaders in Washington, D. C. Many committees take the initiative in arranging for someone in the church to attend. For full information about cost, transportation and hotel, write the department of social welfare.

### • December 1-30

Many committees are called upon, or initiate plans to work with Community Social Agencies in a community wide program of service at Christmas time.

### • January 1-8

Church and Economic Life Observance. For full details of how your church can participate write: Department of Church and Economic Life, National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

Special all-church or study group programs during this week might be planned using some of the following:

\***ETHICS IN A BUSINESS SOCIETY** by Childs and Cater, 35c. Available with study guide "The Camel and The Needle's Eye" (30c).

\***YOU, YOUR CHURCH AND YOUR JOB** 30c. A discussion guide on "The Laity—The Christian and His Vocation," Section VI Report of the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

\***CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES AND ASSUMPTIONS FOR ECONOMIC LIFE**, 10c. The Statement Adopted by the General Board of the National Council of Churches, September, 1954.

\*Order from Christian Board of Publication Box 179, Beaumont and Pine, St. Louis, Mo.

### • February

#### Brotherhood Month

Intercultural and Inter-faith observance sponsored by The National Conference of Christians and Jews.

### • February 12

#### Race Relations Sunday

The *Annual Message* of the National Council of Churches will be sent to each minister in December. Plans for informing the congregation of your

communities' record and accomplishments in race relations can be made now. Pulpit and choir exchanges with a church of different racial background can be planned. An examination of the church's attitude and practice toward receiving as members persons of another race could be undertaken now and reported as part of the observance.

### • February 19-26

#### Week of Compassion

The work of relief and rehabilitation and refugee resettlement is emphasized in the materials prepared for this observance.

### • February 7-10

Churchmen's Washington Seminar to be held in Washington, D. C. Someone from your church could be among the 29 Disciples of Christ representatives in this Seminar. Write Department of Social Welfare for full information.

## PROJECTS AND RESOURCES

### • Blood Bank Party

It was the Madrona Class, First Christian Church, Seattle, Washington, that added a new test of loyalty for its members—a pint of blood. And eleven members immediately accepted the challenge as a part of the group's special service project for the month. Others, who could not attend, the Blood Donor Party are being scheduled to give a pint of blood at a later date. The Blood Donor Party idea is still something of an innovation but one that might well catch on as a service project idea among other churches. Donald M. Salmon is the Minister of the church.

### • Seven Refugees Assured!

For an exciting challenge read the story of First Church, Kalamazoo in this issue on page 1.

### • Round Table Discussion on World Order and Peace.

Thirty-nine churches have ordered the work-book and materials for study and discussion groups. These materials are designed to help a group consider and arrive at agreement on the theological basis of convictions and political, economic and social implications of this basis.

### • Social Action Newsletter

A regular channel of information and suggestions for action that would help every member of your committee. 50c (one year); \$1.00 (two years); 10 copies (30c each per year); 25 or more copies (25c each per year.)

### • Audio-Visuals \*\*

#### Neighbors, film, 10 min. color

The story of two neighbors who quarrel over the fence which separates their land. Reveals the destructive results of unfriendly attitudes, closes with injunction to love your neighbor. Should be used when there is time for discussion. Rental \$7.50

#### The Sound of a Stone, film, 29 min.

The story of a high school teacher accused of being subversive. The threat to civil liberties caused by rumor, hate, and ignorance is suggested. Rental: color \$10.50, B & W \$6.00.

#### Live and Help Live, 90 frames, 24 min., 331/3 record, color.

What brotherhood churches and agencies have done and are doing about living up to Christian imperative to brotherhood. Rental \$3.00

#### Living Right at Our Work Series

A five meeting discussion kit with five filmstrips and guides on applying Christian teachings on the job. Rental \$2.50 each strip.

\*\* Order from Audio-Visual Services, UCMS, 222 So. Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

## What's a Fair Share?

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ditional adjustments will hit. The 42 per cent drawn by the highest fifth is probably coming in for further pressure.

Incentive must be retained in the economic system. Ambition must be rewarded and capital given a fair return. If the ratio of income between the top fifth and lowest fifth, which was 18.1 and is now 14.1, is cut still further, will it destroy initiative? How much further can we go in leveling off the high peak and filling in the desolate valley?

There are some who think that the process has gone too far already and should be reversed so that the rich will have a ready supply of capital for investment. Others think that there will be no opportunity for profitable investment unless wages are kept high and national income and production distributed more broadly. Overshadowing all is the question of how capitalism can defeat the ideologies of Socialism and Communism unless it does provide a fair share for all.

What's a fair share? The question will be vigorously argued. We are making progress, but we can't look at the share of income going to the lowest fifth of our families with much sense of satisfaction.